



**PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY  
OF CALIFORNIA**

**State Central Committee**

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August 24, 2015

Hon. Sharon Runner  
State Capitol, Room 4090  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**Subject:** SB 49 – Special elections – **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Runner,

The Peace and Freedom Party of California stands opposed to AB 49, due to its elimination of the option for individuals to run as write-in candidates and to the apparent move toward executive appointments for what should be elected positions.

This is a clear step away from the democratic process and disenfranchises voters and potential candidates. While recognizing that this bill applies to a narrow range of circumstances, we have serious concerns about laws that would shortcut the filling of positions that should be decided by the voters.

It should not be a responsibility of the Governor to choose those who will fill vacancies in Congress and the Legislature, nor should it be the Governor's job to cancel special elections.

In addition, this bill has two specific problems. First, it doesn't specify the timeframe within which the Governor can cancel a special primary election. This can lead to situations in which a write-in campaign is under way when the decision to cancel is made, and in which election officials have already committed significant resources to conducting the election. Second, because of the compressed schedule for special elections it is possible that write-in candidates will have already qualified before the close of filing to be on the ballot. When that happens, cancelling the election will prevent voters from choosing already qualified write-in candidate or candidates.

If you would like to discuss our position on SB 49 further, please contact me at 916-698-8131 (mobile) or by email at [debra.reiger@earthlink.net](mailto:debra.reiger@earthlink.net), or C. T. Weber at 916-320-9186 (mobile) or by email at [ctwebervoters@att.net](mailto:ctwebervoters@att.net).

Yours truly,

Debra Reiger  
State Chair  
Peace and Freedom Party of California

**cc:** Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting

Hon. Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, Chair  
Hon. Shannon L. Grove, Vice-Chair  
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